

New & Noteworthy



JUNETEENTH  **SAT ■ JUNE 13**
12–3 pm
Douglass Park

EMANCIPATION DAY CELEBRATION!

Bring your family and friends for summer fun & games!



CHAMPAIGN
PARK DISTRICT

Upcoming Juneteenth Celebration

On June 13, community members of all ages are invited to come to Douglass Park to enjoy live music, activities, and giveaways. This annual event is hosted in partnership with the Champaign Park District.

June 10 – July 29
Summer Drop-in Hours
Kids in the Studio!

Wednesdays
Drop in 2–4 pm



Summer Fun in The Studio

This summer, kids can drop by The Studio on Wednesday afternoons for fun activities, games, and crafts.



150 Wishes for the Future

Wishes, dreams, and hope. All words that point us toward the future but are influenced by our past and present. Delicate words, somehow possessing immense amounts of power and potential. The 150th anniversary of anything is a time to reflect, to consider all the positives and negatives of that journey, and to celebrate the possibilities of what is next. I considered all of the above when imagining my piece for the library this summer. How could I visually express and honor such an achievement? Then I remembered the dandelion. A humble and persistent plant that was witness to the Pyramids of Egypt and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. Used in medicine for thousands of years and of course granted countless wishes, the dandelion is a weed that offers so much if we allow it to be part of our lives.

A dandelion is the embodiment of a wish, a dream, and of hope. It is both delicate and powerful, just like our beautiful Champaign Public Library. Delicate because it depends on the community to survive as well as thrive. Powerful because it changes people's lives every day, enriching individuals and families with literature, arts programs, job fairs, and conversations with authors or musicians. They provide a quiet place and a cozy chair, ready to support a reader while they go on an adventure with Harold and his purple crayon, or with Frodo on his dangerous quest through Middle Earth.

I've created 150 dandelion seeds or "wishes" to mark this momentous anniversary. All bursting like golden fireworks in the sky, celebrating our Champaign Public Library.

—Adriane Binky Donley

LOOK UP!

Artist Adriane Binky Donley created an dandelion-themed installation to commemorate the library's 150th anniversary. Her artwork will be on view throughout the summer.



Made possible with support from the Library Friends and Library Foundation.

150 Wishes for the Future

Community members and library staff are enjoying the latest installation from artist Adriane Binky Donley commemorating the library's 150th anniversary. Her artwork titled "150 Wishes for the Future" will be on view throughout the summer.

Program Highlights



Aspiring Entrepreneurs Compete for Stotler Prize

On May 3, 75 community members attended The Big Pitch! and showed support as 16 high school students pitched their business ideas to a panel of local business experts for a chance to win the \$5,000 Stotler Prize.



Drawing Tips from Bestselling Author

On April 22, 317 community members attended Meet the Author! An Evening with Ben Clanton. Ben taught attendees how to draw some of his beloved characters. Earlier that day, Ben visited with 137 kids during morning visits to Bottenfield Elementary and Garden Hills Academy.

Hands-On Creativity in The Studio

On May 2, 62 community members attended Free Comic Day. The afternoon featured a presentation from comic book artist and University of Illinois School of Art & Design professor Stacey Robinson.

Douglass Branch



Friday Night Jam Sessions

At last month's Jam Session, 10 community members gathered to share their talent and support fellow performers.

Building Home Libraries

Over the last month, 24 books were given to children to grow their home libraries.

Table Talk Book Club

On April 23, 22 book club members were in attendance and discussed the book *Harlem Rhapsody* by Victoria Christopher Murray.

Afterschool Fun at Club Fred

Last month, 71 children attended the afterschool program across ten sessions. Club Fred meets three times a week and offers a variety of games and activities for students to explore.

Coffee and a Craft

Last month, 5 participants learned how to make paper flowers on the Cricut machines.

Customer Comments

Continued Interested in The Studio

Staff provided a tour of The Studio to an interested customer who later commented, "Wow, you guys really have nice thing going here!"

A Welcoming Space

A customer walked into the library and immediately exclaimed, "When you walk into the library, it's like a warm hug!"

Just Passing Through

While staff were assisting a customer with a room reservation, the customer remarked, "This library is so beautiful, I can't wait to tour this place. I love it, I love it. My son goes to the university and I'm just visiting!"

Multilingual Resources

While selecting prize books with her child, a parent expressed her appreciation that the library offers prize books in both Spanish and English and other languages as well.

Teachable Moments

Library staff demonstrated how to use the scanning station to a customer who was able to proceed with scanning documents on their own. As they were leaving, they took the time to thank staff for showing them how to do it and felt confident that they would be able to do it next time.